



**News from the Shelby County Mayor's Office**  
**Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor**  
Suite 850, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

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**October 31, 2011** **KNOW NOW. LIVE LONGER.**

**Shelby County Mayor, Mid-South Faith Leaders Launch HIV/AIDS Initiative**

The Memphis Ryan White Program, Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell and faith leaders will join next week to announce a collaborative effort to combat HIV/AIDS. The initiative will be discussed at a news conference on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m., at the Urban Child Institute, 600 Jefferson Ave.

**"Our community is experiencing a crisis when it comes to HIV/AIDS. Of the more than 7,000 men, women and children in our community living with HIV/AIDS, almost half are not receiving the care they need. Rates of HIV are also on the rise among our youth,"** Luttrell said. **"It's imperative that we work together to raise awareness about this disease."**

As communities around the world gather to observe World AIDS Day on December 1<sup>st</sup>, faith leaders throughout the Memphis area will raise awareness on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. World AIDS Sunday sermons, announcements, bulletins and printed materials will be used to inform congregations about the resources available for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS.

**"As faith leaders, it is our duty to give guidance to those struggling with the disease and help promote a safe, healthy community. We believe World AIDS Sunday will especially provide support to all of those in need."** said Rev. Melvin Lee of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, a co-chair of the Memphis Ryan White Planning Council.

**"Our program saves, lengthens, and enhances the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. It also assists the relatives and friends of those with HIV/AIDS,"** said Memphis Ryan White Program Manager Dorcas Young. **"With the Ryan White Program available, there is no reason why anyone should not receive the care they need."**

The Memphis Ryan White Program launched the *"Know Now. Live Longer"* program last year. It is administered by Shelby County Government through a federal grant and provides free HIV-related services to people in Shelby, Fayette, Tipton, Crittenden, DeSoto, Marshall, Tate and Tunica counties in Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas.

For information, contact Dorcas Young at [Dorcas.Young@shelbycountyttn.gov](mailto:Dorcas.Young@shelbycountyttn.gov), (901) 270-6116, visit [www.hivmemphis.org](http://www.hivmemphis.org) or call (877) HIV-KNOW (877) 448-5669.

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